

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 131

By Matheny

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Ernest Edward Henley upon his induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those citizens who, through unwavering dedication and unflagging commitment to excellence, have distinguished themselves as leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Ernest Edward Henley, who has, for more than 50 years, dedicated himself to the education and instruction of young athletes; on March 17, 2007, Mr. Henley will be inducted into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) Hall of Fame, a most befitting recognition of his outstanding service to Tennessee high school athletics; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable man has dedicated over 50 years of overall service as an official with the TSSAA; and

WHEREAS, joining the TSSAA in 1956, Ed Henley proved to be an excellent basketball official; he became well-known for the fairness of his judgment and his knowledge and understanding of the sport he officiated; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Henley began his officiating career while a student at Tennessee Technological University; after graduating and serving active duty in the United States Army, he served in the Manchester City School System for 5 years, during which time he taught and was head football and track coach, as well as assistant basketball coach, at Westwood Junior High School; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Ed Henley has officiated many important high school games, including District, Regional, and Sub-State basketball games; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Henley's contribution to high school athletics is not limited to coaching and officiating; he has been an effective fundraiser for many sporting and other civic events in Coffee County, and he has also sponsored many officials who were interested in attending TSSAA Basketball Camp; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Henley presently serves as Vice President of the Coffee County Athletics Foundation, an organization that is building a weight room to benefit all sports at Coffee County Central High School; in 1993, he served as Co-Chairman of the effort to renovate the girls' basketball locker room at Coffee County High School; and

WHEREAS, it has been said of Mr. Henley that no one has more compassion for the young athlete and the game of basketball than he does; and

WHEREAS, the significance of Mr. Henley's impact cannot be adequately measured by his number of years as a TSSAA Official; his positive impact on the lives of students, athletes, fellow officials, and administrators will continue to resound in the community for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Henley is also a successful businessman, who owns and operates the Henley Propane Gas Company, the only small locally-owned gas company in his area; and

WHEREAS, despite all of the demands placed upon him, Mr. Henley has always found time to be an active member of the community; he was one of the original businessmen to organize and open Coffee County Bank in Manchester, which he has served as Vice President and Director; he has also served as Manchester City Alderman and Chairman of the Coffee County Joint Sanitary Landfill; other organizations to which he has contributed include the Manchester Jaycees, the Manchester City School Board of Education, the Chamber of Commerce, the Coffee County Election Commission, and many more; and

WHEREAS, during his illustrious career, Mr. Henley has enjoyed the loving support of his wife, Vivian B. Henley, with whom he celebrated his fortieth anniversary in 2004, and his three children, Edward Henley, Stacey Cravens, and Leslie Trussler; and

WHEREAS, for the above accomplishments, and because of his impeccable moral standards and impressive work ethic, Mr. Henley has been selected for induction into the TSSAA Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ed Henley, as a man of true character and commitment, exemplifies the type of selfless community servant and civic leader whom fellow Tennesseans admire for their tireless efforts to mold the State's youth, guiding them with solid principles and high standards, whether in the athletic arena or in the actions of daily life; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join the family and friends of Mr. Ernest Edward Henley in congratulating him upon his induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, honor and commend Mr. Henley for his substantial legacy as an official in the sports community of Tennessee, and offer our gratitude for the dedication that he has shown our State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.